Bhilai Captive Power Project Expansion, Chhattisgarh	2x250	capacity. A Joint Venture Captive Power Project proposed with Steel Authority of India Limited.

Responsibility given to private sector for improvement in power sector

†4920. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector has been given responsibility to make improvement in power sector of various States of the country;

(b) if so, the States in which private sector has been given responsibility along with the details of these responsibilities;

(c) by when, this responsibility was given;

(d) whether Government have made any assessment in improvements of power sector after extending the responsibilities to the private sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Coal based power generation projects

†4921. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRIRAJIVRANJAN SINGH 'LALAN';

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed that the cost of power generation may be reduced by improving the quality of coal in the coal based power generation projects of the National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the percentage cost reduction of power likely to be brought about as a result thereof; and

(c) the average cost of production estimated to be brought down in the above projects during the current year 2002-2003 ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) It has been observed by National Thermal Power Corporation that improvement in coal quality results in lesser coal consumption but at the same time requires additional cost. The reduction in cost of generation in a particular project depends on the level of increase in cost of coal against the level of decrease in coal consumption.

Power generation **and consumption in** Assam

4922. SHRIDWUENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the details of power generation and consumption in the State of Assam during each of the last five years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): The details of electricity generation and energy and peak availability from all sources for consumption in the State of Assam during the last 5 years i. *e.* 1998-99 to 2002-2003 are given as under:—

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-20022002-2003	
Own Generation (MU)	939.0	920.0	1063.0	990.0	884.0
Energy Availability (MU)	2799.2	2918.4	3332.8	3425.2	3349.0
Peak Met (MW)	514.0	556.0	579.0	618.0	589.0

Hydel power potential

4923. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is not able to exploit even 25 per cent of its hydel potential;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for maximizing hydel power potential utilization in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 17% of the assessed hydro potential has been exploited and 6% is under development. Thus, 77% of the hydro power potential is yet to be exploited. The constraints which have affected hydro development are: